CE Students win Regional Awards and Compete at the National Level

On March 27-29, 2003, the LSU ASCE Student Chapter sent 29 students to participate in the Deep South Regional Conference at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA. The Chapter competed in four of the five competitions: Daniel Mead Paper, Surveying, Steel Bridge, and Concrete Canoe. LSU was one of ten universities to send representatives. The other schools competing were: Arkansas State University, Louisiana Tech, McNeese, Mississippi State, Southern, Tulane, University of Louisiana – Lafayette, University of Mississippi, and University of Tennessee – Martin. LSU received the 1st Place Overall ASCE Chapter award for the second consecutive year.

The first competition was the Daniel Mead Paper. Lynné Roussel represented LSU by submitting a paper titled, “Ethical Engineering Decisions During a Disaster.” She took home the 1st place trophy and subsequently submitted her paper to the national competition.

The Steel Bridge Competition was the third competition of the day. The Steel Bridge team was led by James Gregg and consisted of David Godbold, Kirby Hebert, Geoffrey Wilson, Mike Viviano, Stephen Robert, Ba Nguyen, Patrick Downs, Joey Kreftl, and Cayam Oznel. The team first assembled their bridge while being timed by the judges. Any mistake could have cost them a time penalty. Once the judges checked the bridge, the team then loaded the bridge with 2500 lbs at two points and the horizontal deflection was measured. The bridge was judged for aesthetics, weight, construction time, economy, and efficiency. The Steel Bridge Team took home the following awards: 2nd overall bridge, 1st lightweight, 1st aesthetics, and 1st efficiency.
The Concrete Canoe Competition took place over two days. The team was lead by Adam Smith and involved Lynne Roussel, Rudy Simoneaux, Kyle Murrell, Keith Hoffman, David Godbold, Adrienne Breaux, Elizabeth Breaux, Lisa Rodriguez, Menat Salem, Ba Nguyen, Jason Duhon, Paul Vught, Dale Huister, Glenn Schexnayder, Andrew Mancuso, and Christopher Bond. The Team submitted a design paper before the competition that explained the design and construction of the Tiger Torpedo. On Friday, two of the team members gave a presentation to the judges and answered technical questions. The races took place on Saturday at Bayou St. John in City Park. The canoe was judged for Final Product and the team raced against the other teams. After a long cold and windy day, the team took home the following awards: 1st overall canoe, 1st design paper, 1st oral presentation, 2nd women’s slalom, and 3rd men’s sprint.

This year’s LSU steel bridge team recently competed in nationals in San Diego, CA. They made some improvements between regionals which allowed them to be competitive on a national level. The team improved their assembly time to 2 minutes and 30 seconds. The abutments were tightened and steel was added to the long span to help with the lateral deflection.

A total of 182 schools entered the National Student Steel Bridge Competition. The top two schools from each regional competition were invited to the Nationals. At Nationals LSU placed 13th overall out of 44 schools. The bridge weighed 103 lbs and deflected .86 inches, which placed the team 8th in weight and 8th in efficiency. In aesthetics the judges noticed the detail that was put into the bridge and placed it 12th. Michigan placed first overall, followed by University of Wisconsin Madison and University of Florida. LSU also finished well ahead of Arkansas State, the team that beat them in the regional competition (they finished 21st). The 13th place finish placed LSU in the top 7% of schools that competed nationwide.

On June 19, the Concrete Canoe Team traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to attend the 16th Annual National Concrete Canoe Competition. This was the first time in eight years that the LSU Concrete Canoe Team competed at the National level. Approximately 150 teams compete at the Regional level in order to reach the National Competition. Of these teams, only twenty-four schools were invited to the National Concrete Canoe Competition and LSU tied for 19th overall. The University of Wisconsin-Madison, Universite Laval, and University of California Berkeley placed first, second, and third respectively.

Although the team did not place in the top 10, they still managed to receive an award. Due to an accident during the first two days of competition, the canoe accumulated some damages. Instead of giving up, the team made minor repairs to the hull and proceeded to race the canoe. After three races, the canoe was beyond repair. The team consulted with the National Committee Members and decided to try the fourth race. In order to compete, the team decided to remove the damaged half of the hull and race the remaining half. They were given an award for embodying the spirit of the competition by doing everything within their power to compete.

**Willson and Wolshon Selected to Advise Student Organizations**

Dr. Clint Willson and Brian Wolshon have been selected to serve as Faculty Advisers to the Chi Epsilon Honor Society and the Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers, respectively. Dr. Willson will replace Dr. Mohammad Alawady who retired this year after 34 years of service in the Department. He had served as the Faculty Adviser of ASCE for the past two years. Dr. Wolshon is a graduate of Michigan State University and specializes in Transportation Engineering. He joined the LSU faculty in 1997. In recent years he has been very active in the transportation aspects of hurricane evacuation. For the past three years, he has served as the Faculty Adviser to Chi Epsilon.

Dr. Willson is a graduate of the University of Texas and joined the Department in 1998. His expertise is in the area of water resources engineering. Among his other activities, he is directing a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates Summer Program in tomography applications in civil and environmental engineering. As noted above, he replaces Dr. Wolshon in this position.

Dr. John Sansalone will continue to serve as Faculty Adviser to the Student Chapter of the Louisiana Water Environment Association. A graduate of the University of Cincinnati, he joined the Department in 1998. His primary research interest is in urban runoff but he has expertise in environmental and geotechnical engineering. Dr. Sansalone has served the Chapter for the past 3 years.

**Cee Alumni Information**

**Name:** ____________________________ **Degree:** ____________________________ **Year:** ______

**Home Address:** ____________________________

**Home Telephone:** ____________________________ **Email:** ____________________________

**Position Title:** ____________________________

**Firm:** ____________________________ **Business telephone:** ____________________________

**Business Address:** ____________________________

**Your News:** ____________________________
The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is continuing a fundraising campaign to enrich and enhance programs in the department. Your donation will enhance the Departmental Enhancement Fund supporting new initiatives so that we may continue to produce top-quality engineers.

Our goal is to build an endowment of $400,000 and an annual $50,000 supplement to support the purchase of new lab equipment, computers and software, support of students, and support of faculty activities at professional meetings and conferences.

Any amount will be greatly appreciated; however, donors giving $200 a year for five or more years or over $1000 initially will receive special recognition in our departmental newsletter and on the Departmental Enhancement Fund plaque displayed in the department. Company matching funds will also be acknowledged. Please consider the CEE department this year in your annual giving.

**DONOR INFORMATION:**

(please check)

- $10,000 or more
- $5,000 to $9,999
- $1,000 to $4,999
- $500 or more
- $200 to $499
- Less than $200

I pledge $__________ per year for the next ________ years to the CEE Departmental Enhancement Fund for a total of $________________.

Please make your checks payable to the “LSU Foundation” and note ‘for CEE Enhancement Fund’.

**NAME:**_______________________________________________________________________

**ADDRESS:**____________________________________________________________________

**CITY:** __________________________________________ **STATE:** ___________________ **ZIP:** __________________

**PHONE:** ___________ **BUSINESS** ____________________________ **HOME** __________________________

**FAX NUMBER:** __________________________ **E-MAIL:** ____________________________

**GRADUATION DATE:** ______________________ **DEGREE:** __________________________

**EMPLOYER:** __________________________________________

**Please mail donations to:** Civil and Environmental Engineering
Louisiana State University
3418 CEBA Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-6405

You will be contacted by our development coordinator to confirm your pledge and support.

**THANK YOU**
Second Call to Participate in Alumni and Employer Surveys

As an important part of our Continual Improvement Process, the Department is conducting a web-based survey of alumni and employers. The objectives of the surveys are to assess and evaluate our undergraduate programs and the performance of our graduates; gather information that can be used to document the professional development of our graduates; and identify the need to strengthen our curricula. This information is a vital part of our preparation for the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology visit scheduled for Fall 2003.

As a possible alumnus of either our civil engineering or environmental engineering, you are asked to participate in this important activity. Completion of the survey will probably take no more than 15 minutes of your time and be of invaluable service to the Department. To complete the survey, access the following site, complete the survey form, and then submit the button. You will note the survey form consists of common Background and Evaluation of Undergraduate Programs sections, followed by separate sections for Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering. If you are a civil engineering alumnus, complete the civil engineering section only. If you are an environmental engineering alumnus, complete that section only.

Visit http://www.cee.lsu.edu/~cee_alumni_survey.htm

Your information will be treated as confidential.

If you now employ LSU civil engineering or environmental engineering graduates that graduated within the past six years, we ask that you help us by completing the Employer Survey Form available at:

http://www.cee.lsu.edu/~cee_employee_survey.htm

Again, your information will be treated as confidential.

If you have any questions about this matter or have any difficulty in completing the survey, please contact Karyn Klein at kklein6@lsu.edu. Your timely response to this call will be greatly appreciated.

ALUMNI and PRACTITIONER INVOLVEMENT REGISTRIES INITIATED

Two web-based registries have been developed to provide a better link between the Department and its alumni and to solicit practitioner involvement in the undergraduate program.

Specifically, the Alumni Registry was developed with the following objectives in mind:

• Collect data that will assist the Department in its Continual Improvement Process as required for the reaccreditation of its undergraduate programs in Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering.
• Provide a means to update the mailing list for our quarterly newsletter.
• Provide a means that will allow former classmates an opportunity to have a “virtual reunion”.

The Alumni Registry can be accessed at www.cee.lsu.edu/~ceeupo. Please help us by completing the form on the webpage. It will take you no more than 10 minutes to complete and submit the form.

The Practitioner Involvement Registry is a means to volunteer your services to enhance our undergraduate programs in Civil Engineering and Environmental engineering. Our main goal is to improve the understanding and exposure of our undergraduate students to professional practice issues. We hope to achieve this goal by increased practitioner involvement in our programs. Irrespective of where you received your degree, we solicit your involvement in this program. There are several ways you might assist the Department. For example:

• As a guest lecturer in a class or student chapter meeting
• As a field trip sponsor
• As a design project panel evaluator
• As a professional mentor

Your contributions will greatly enhance our undergraduate programs and make invaluable contributions to the education of our students. The Professional Involvement Registry can be accessed at www.cee.lsu.edu/~ceeupo. Please help us by completing the form on the webpage. It will take you no more than 10 minutes to complete and submit the form.

If you have any questions about either of the registries, contact Karyn Klein at kklein6@lsu.edu.
Ms. Lisa Rodriguez, a May 2003 civil engineering graduate, was honored by two awards. She was the first recipient of the College of Engineering Good Ambassador Award. This award is given to an undergraduate student that has demonstrated outstanding achievement in leadership, service, and scholarship with equal importance imparted to each area. Lisa was well deserving of this award having served as the President of the Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers, actively participated as a member of the Concrete Canoe Team, and engaged in service activities including Habitat for Humanity. In addition, she was a Cum Laude honor graduate. Lisa was also honored by the Baton Rouge Branch of ASCE with the Distinguished Civil Engineering Senior Student Award. These awards are made to students who have made contributions to the civil engineering profession through leadership and service activities as well as through academic excellence. Lisa is a native of Mandeville, LA, and a graduate from Mount Carmel Academy High School. Her parents are Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Rodriguez of Mandeville, LA. Lisa is currently an Engineer Intern at Evans-Graves Engineers of Baton Rouge.

Chancellor’s Alumni Scholarship Recipients Includes CE Student

The Chancellor’s Alumni Scholarship is a prestigious scholarship awarded to a select group of incoming freshmen for LSU. For the 2002-2003 freshmen class, Civil Engineering student Bryan Beyer was among one of this elite few. Recipients of the scholarship must score at least 1460 on the SAT or at least 33 on the ACT. They must also have a 3.5 grade point average in high school. A selection committee invites candidates to apply for the scholarship, and the 25 best applicants then compete through written essays and on-campus interviews. Only ten Chancellor’s Alumni Scholarships were awarded for the 2002-2003 year.

Bryan Beyer of Slidell, LA was chosen as the Fred H. Fenn Scholar among the recipients. Bryan graduated fifth in a class of 330 students at Northshore High School of Slidell. He was president of the Slidell International Youth Association and was also a member of the Beta Club and the National Honor Society. As a freshman at LSU, Bryan is a member of a student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers and participates in the Chancellor’s Future Leaders in Research Program. After graduation, Bryan hopes to enter the Navy in a program that would pay for a graduate education in engineering.

American Society of Civil Engineers

In April, the LSU ASCE Student Chapter held its Annual Spring Banquet at Drusilla’s Seafood Restaurant. During the banquet, Dr. Voyiadis handed out approximately ten department scholarships. The Outstanding ASCE awards were handed out, and the new officers were installed. The members nominated and voted on these awards based on involvement and dedication to the LSU ASCE Student Chapter. The award recipients were Dr. Roger Seals – Outstanding Teacher, Lynne Roussel – Outstanding Senior, and David Godbold – Outstanding Underclassman.

The new officers installed were:

- Kyle Murrell – President
- David Godbold – Vice-President
- Elizabeth Bauny – Secretary
- Mike Viviano – Treasurer

The new officers are looking forward to the fall semester in hopes to start a winning tradition with the Steel Bridge, Concrete Canoe, Daniel Mead Paper, and Surveying Team.

Six LSU Students Receive the Asphalt Technology Scholarships Sponsored by the NAPA Research and Education Foundation and the Louisiana Asphalt Pavement Association

Six civil engineering students were named the recipients of the 2002-2003 Louisiana Asphalt Technology Scholarships at LSU. The recipients were Jessica Ann Dalton, Kenneth Joseph Krefft, Jr, Michael John Moran, Sarah Nicole Paul, Zachary Wayne Simpson, and Paige Elizabeth Tarver. These scholarships were sponsored by Barrière Construction Company, R. E. Hedd Construction Company, Costal Contractors Company, and Asphalt Products Unlimited.

This Scholarship Program was developed in an effort to encourage young men and women to choose HMA technology courses as a part of their curriculum. An example of partnership among academia, government and industry, this scholarship is intended to not only benefit the HMA industry by providing a trained workforce in HMA technology but also benefits the individuals who choose careers in public sector at the federal, state, or municipal levels. The scholarships, each $2000, are presented yearly to college sophomores or juniors who are U.S. citizens and already enrolled in a full time civil engineering curriculum. To be eligible for the scholarship, the students must take at least one course on HMA technology at the university. It was through the efforts of Dr. Louay Mohammad, Associate Professor of civil and environmental engineering and Director of LTRC’s Engineering Materials Characterization Research Facility, that the scholarship was brought to LSU.

2003 Chi Epsilon Initiation

The LSU chapter of the Chi Epsilon civil engineering honor society continued to build on their prior accomplishments. Under the leadership of outgoing president Sarah Paul, Chi Epsilon held their most successful fundraiser to date and involved it membership in a public service project. In May a class of 15 new members was initiated, including for the first time, students from the environmental engineering program.

The 2003 – 2004 LSU Chi Epsilon officers are:

- Kaye Lewis, President
- Angie Montagnet, Vice President
- Rene Dauterive, Secretary
- John Catalonotto, David Golbold, Denis Hoerner, Editor

The remaining 2003-2004 initiates include:

- Amy Attardo
- Daniel Blanchard
- John Catalonotto
- Amanda Ham
- Kristy Henry
- Gaye Lewis
- Calvin Landry
- Nicholas Fruge
- David Golbold
- Denis Hoerner
- Natalie Magill

The 2002 – 2003 school year also marks the end of Dr. Brian Wolshon’s tenure as chapter faculty advisor. After 4 years, he will serve as the ASCE Student Chapter faculty advisor, turning over his XE responsibilities to Dr. Clint Willson. Congratulations to all who have made, and will continue to make, the LSU Chi Epsilon Chapter a success. Anyone interested in contacting the organization may do so at LSUChiEpsilon@hotmail.com.

Research Experience for Undergraduates

For the third summer, the Department is sponsoring a Research Experience for Undergraduates Program in Tomography Applications in Civil and Environmental Engineering. The eight week program sponsored by the National Science Foundation pairs undergraduate students with faculty members on research projects in selected areas of tomography. This summer eleven students are participating, along with Drs. Alshibli, Fratta, Sansalone, Wang, and Willson of the Department. Student participants include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Faculty Advisor</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Boggan</td>
<td>Southern University</td>
<td>Alshibli/Sansalone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Godbold</td>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>Alshibli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vida Sharafkhani</td>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>Alshibli</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi Epsilon Officers
Chi Epsilon Members
Chi Epsilon Initiates
Those planning to attend graduate school were as follows:

Jonathan Clement  Loyola Law School
Joaquin de Mari  University of Puerto Rico
James Gregg  LSU
Jeffrey Hines  University of Illinois
Keith Hoffman  LSU
David Lewis  North Carolina State
Cayan Oznel  LSU
Sarah Paul  LSU
Lynne Roussel  LSU

The August 2002, December 2002, and May 2003 Commencement Ceremonies. Each student received their diploma at a ceremony conducted by the College immediately following the University Commencement. Following the College Ceremony, the students and their families were treated to a luncheon by the Department in the Germano Center.

Students receiving University Honors for outstanding academic performance in their undergraduate studies included:

Gerard P. Doyle, Civil Engineering, Summa Cum Laude
Cayan Oznel, Civil Engineering, Magna Cum Laude
Paul T. Vaught, III, Civil Engineering, Magna Cum Laude
Gerald M. Pekmezci, Civil Engineering, Cum Laude
Stephen D. Robert, Civil Engineering, Cum Laude
Lisa C. Rodriguez, Civil Engineering, Cum Laude

The Department is justly proud of these students for their outstanding academic records.

Surveys conducted at the diploma ceremonies indicated that of the six environmental engineering graduates responding, five had accepted engineering positions. One student, Andrea Turriciano, planned to attend LSU Graduate School. Those accepting engineering positions were as follows:

Cedrick Brown  Total Environmental Solutions, Inc.
Tracy Fazio  ERM
Mandy Foreman  USGS
Brian Hazlip  Forte and Tablada, Inc.
Cy Toups  T. Baker Smith & Son, Inc.

Of the 37 civil engineering graduates responding, 28 had accepted engineering positions. Nine graduates planned to pursue post graduate studies. Those accepting engineering positions were as follows:

Daniel Baker  The Shaw Group
Christopher Bond  Sigma Consulting Group
Jonathan Fox  ABMB Engineers, Inc.
Lance Decuir  Florida Dept. of Transportation
Nathan Douglas  Superior Steel
Gerard Doyle  Modjeski and Masters
Jason Flory  ERM-SW
Sam Gassiott  Pan American Engineers
Taylor Gravois  Duplantis Design Group
Melanie Grigsby  LADOTD
Jeffrey Hooper  LADOTD
Jake Lambert  Larry J. Picciola & Assoc.
Melanie Lestell  USACE
David Lovett  US Army Corps of Engineers
Andrew Mancuso  New offshore
Kristy May  Hensel Phelps
David Miller  Ferris Engineering
Michael Moran  LADOTD
Gerald Pekmezci  Ragland, Aderman & Assoc.
Brady Richard  City of Baton Rouge
James Richardson  LADOTD
Lisa Rodriguez  Evans-Groves Engineers
Blake Roussel  LADOTD
Glenn Schexnayder, Jr.  Boh Bros. Construction Co., LLC
John Schexnayder  Hartman Engineering
Adam Smith  Owen and White
Brian Smith  Justice and Huang Engineers
Paul Vaught, III  LADOTD

Students Participate in International Environmental Design Contest

For each of the past six years, environmental engineering students from LSU’s Civil and Environmental Engineering department have competed in the International Environmental Design Contest. This year the competition was held on April 6-10 in Las Cruces, New Mexico and was host to 28 university teams. The contest, in its thirteenth year, is sponsored by the US Department of Energy. The LSU team, advised by Dr. David Constant, P.E., was comprised of five seniors, all of whom were required to be taking the capstone design sequence of the CEE curriculum. Participants were involved in multi-task tracks of competition; all teams are judged on the basis of a paper, due in March, prior to competition; Bench-scale presentations; and poster presentations. Although disqualified because their presentation ran overtime, LSU’s team was praised with positive comments about the high quality of their work.

In 2002, LSU was awarded second place for design of separation technologies for treatment of explosive-laden soil, and first place for the removal of uranium from drinking water. LSU was also recipient of the 2002 Duratek Federal Services Award for Waste Management, an overall award. In 2000, LSU won a first place task award, and in 2001, Dr. Constant was named outstanding advisor.

This year’s design team members were Melanie Auzenne, Danielle Blanchard, Mandy Foreman, Heather Mall, and Summer Vernon.

Dr. Mohamed Alawady retired this year after 34 years of service to the students of LSU. After receiving his BSCE degree from Cairo University in 1960, he began his career as a structural engineer in Egypt and other middle eastern countries. He decided to pursue graduate studies in the United States at the University of Oklahoma. Knowing relatively little about American universities, he chose Oklahoma because of its central location in the country. He completed his Ph.D. in 1968 and taught at Southern University for one year while serving as the Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering. He accepted a faculty position at LSU in 1969 where he taught water resources engineering ever since.

Over the years, Dr. Alawady conducted research related to hydrological modeling and related areas as well as serving in administrative positions within the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. However, he was best known as an outstanding teacher. He has received numerous teaching awards including: a number of Outstanding Faculty Member awards from Chi Epsilon and the Student Chapter of ASCE, Teacher of the Year and Educator of the Year from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, an LSU Faculty award from the Student Government Association, the Dean’s Teaching Award from the College of Engineering, and a Tiger Athletic Foundation Teaching award from the University. He has also received the Louisiana Engineering Foundation Engineering Faculty Professionalism award and is a Life Member of ASCE.

Dr. Alawady was known for his interest in students. He was the department’s academic advisor for many years and served as the faculty advisor to the ASCE Student Chapter. His influence on students was sometimes dramatic. During my nine years as Department Chairman, I received a number of calls and notes praising Dr. Alawady. Some came from students and some from parents. In each case, Dr. Alawady was credited with providing the guidance, direction and inspiration without which these students would have never finished their degrees. During meetings with former students, I have often inquired as to who were their favorite professors. Dr. Alawady’s name seemed to be mentioned in almost every case.

Dr. Alawady had a profound influence on LSU students for over 30 years. We wish him success and long life in his retirement. He will be missed.